(4636) GT TORRINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE BOROUGH OF GREAT TORRINGTON FOR THE YEAR 1949.

During the year the general health of the Borough has been very good.

BIRTHS. There were 80 live births - 40 male and 40 female. None of these births was illegitimate. This is considerably above the average for the previous five years (51), and gives a birth rate of 28.6 per 1,000. The provisional birth rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7 per 1,000 total population.

There were no stillbirths.

DEATHS. There were 40 deaths - 25 male and 15 female. The average number for the previous five years was 45. The death rate per 1,000 was 14.3. The death rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 11.7 per 1,000 total population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Myocardial Degeneration & Senility	18	Cancer of Uterus	1
Heart Disease	5	Cancer of Ovary	1
Uraemia	1	Cancer of Breast	1
Acute Bronchitis	1	Cancer of Lung	1
Chronic Bronchitis & Asthma	1	Cancer of Oesophagus	1
Apoplexy	1	Cancer of Bladder	1
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	1	Cancer of Stomach	1
Suicide by Hanging	1		

Average age 74 years.

INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Prematurity	2	Acute Gastro-enteritis	1
Congenital Pyloric Stenosis	1		

TUBERCULOSIS. No new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. The cases on the Tuberculosis Register on 31/xij/49 were:-

Pulmonary	Male	6	Female	8
Non-Pulmonary	Male	0	Female	3

VENEREAL DISEASE No cases came to notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There was a sharp outbreak of measles, which started at the end of May, and continued until the end of July. The cases were relatively mild, and there were few complications. The youngest patient was aged 3 months, and the oldest was 69 years; but the majority of cases occurred among school-children.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

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Measles	131	Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	18	Pneumonia	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2		

No case of Poliomyelitis occurred.

During the summer the Central Council for Health Education pamphlet "Infantile Paralysis - Some Safety Measures" was distributed to all householders in the Borough.

WATER SUPPLY. The water is untreated apart from filtration. Five bacteriological examinations were carried out during the year - the results were all satisfactory. No lead was found in the water.

The supply was plentiful in spite of the unusually dry summer. But there are parts of the town which have no water at all coming from the mains for many hours during the day - all the year round. This is due to encrustation of the mains and the condition has persisted for many years. Ministry of Health approval has been obtained for new mains throughout; and it is hoped that the work on this will start in about 12 months time when it is expected that all the necessary materials (which have already been ordered) will be available.

There is a piped water-supply to all houses in the built-up area (population about 2,600). Outlying farms and cottages (population about 200) have their own wells.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The unsatisfactory condition of the sewage outfall from Bidnawell and Torridge Vale areas has been under review for several years. Ministry of Health sanction has now been obtained for new sewers and treatment plant. Materials have been ordered, and it is hoped that work will begin as soon as a starting date has been awarded.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. No animals for general consumption are slaughtered within the Borough. A large amount of meat was condemned during the year; the reasons for its bad condition have been communicated to the Ministry of Food.

The foodstuffs condemned were as follows:-

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Beef.....492¾ lbs.
Mutton.....41 lbs.
Tinned Meats.....16 lbs.
Other tinned foods..2 lbs.

FOOD POISONING. There was no case of food poisoning.

F. T. Robinson.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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